

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB

APPROVED BY PA/M:WJDYESS

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN BYLINER FRONT
PAGE NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, HEADED,
"RHODESIAN AFFIRMS MEETING PRODUCED .CONCRETE RESULTS.."

2. SALISBURY, RHODESIA, SEPT. 20 -- PRIME MINISTER
IAN D. SMITH SAID TODAY THAT "CONCRETE RESULTS" HAD
EMERGED FROM HIS TALKS YESTERDAY WITH SECRETARY OF
STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AND THAT HE FELT THERE WAS
NOW "A CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT."

3. IN A SHORT RADIO INTERVIEW, THE 56-YEAR-OLD PRIME
MINISTER DISCLOSED NO SPECIFICS OF WHAT HAD BEEN DIS-
CUSSED IN PRETORIA BUT TERMED THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE
"A DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH."

4. "I DON.T THINK THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS FAR AS THE
CONCRETE RESULTS ARE CONCERNED," MR. SMITH SAID.
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"WE DID START BY ASKING ONE ANOTHER QUESTIONS AND

TRYING TO CLARIFY THE POSITIONS BUT CLEARLY TOWARDS THE END THERE WAS A BIT OF BARGAINING, NEGOTIATING. SOME PRETTY TOUGH NEGOTIATING TOOK PLACE AND AS A

RESULT WE CAME TO A POINT WHERE WE WERE SATISFIED AS TO WHAT THE INTENTION WAS AND I HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH THAT SITUATION."

5. ASKED ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TALKS AND THE PROSPECT FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE 11-YEAR RHODESIAN IMPASSE, MR. SMITH REPLIED, "IT DOES MEAN THAT THERE IS A CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT." HOWEVER, HE TOLD THE INTERVIEWER, "AS YOU ARE AWARE I HAVE GOT TO GO THROUGH CERTAIN PROCEDURES."

6. THIS WAS TAKEN TO MEAN THAT MR. SMITH HAD TO SELL THE PROPOSALS TO HIS PARTY AND CABINET. HE CONFERRED WITH KEY CABINET OFFICIALS TODAY AND IS TO MEET WITH THE FULL CABINET TOMORROW AND WITH A CAUCUS OF HIS RHODESIAN FRONT PARTY ON THURSDAY. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE WILL ADDRESS THE NATION ON FRIDAY.

7. THE ECONOMY OF LANDLOCKED RHODESIA HAS SURVIVED AND EVEN PROSPERED DURING THE YEARS THAT THE COUNTRY'S TRADE WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS BEEN HELD ILLEGAL IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, LARGELY BECAUSE OF ARTFUL AND INTRICATE METHODS OF DEFEATING THE SANCTIONS. THESE METHODS RELIED HEAVILY ON CONTINUED ACCESS TO SOUTH AFRICAN RAIL AND POST FACILITIES, ACCESS THAT IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BEEN FELT TO BE IN JEOPARDY.

8. IN THE INTERVIEW MR. SMITH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL VIEW OF HIS GOVERNMENT AS ILLEGAL, IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR MR. KISSINGER TO SEE HIM, SOMETHING HE SAID THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD NOTED IN THEIR TALKS.

9. "HOWEVER, HE SAID IN THE END HE BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE IN THE POSITION SUCH AS HE ENJOYS HAD TO TAKE CERTAIN CHANCES," MR. SMITH SAID, "AND HE ASSURED US UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT WHAT HE WAS DEDICATED TO DOING WAS TRYING TO PREVENT WAR, OR STOP WAR OR FIGHTING WHEREVER THIS EXISTED AND BRING ABOUT PEACE."

10. MR. SMITH CONTINUED THAT DESPITE THE PRESSURES THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO KEEP MR. KISSINGER FROM MEETING HIM, THE DISCUSSION DID TAKE PLACE.

11. "SO MAYBE IT WAS A DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH,"
MR. SMITH DECLARED. "THE MAIN THING IS IT SUCCEEDED."

12. THE INTERVIEW DID LITTLE TO DIMINISH THE

SPECULATION THAT HAS CONTINUED HERE EVER SINCE WORD
CAME THAT MR. SMITH WOULD SEE MR. KISSINGER. ALL
OBSERVERS FEEL ANY SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL MUST INCLUDE A
TIMETABLE FOR MAJORITY RULE AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH
BLACKS. WHAT IS BEING DEBATED IS THE SPAN OF THAT
TIMETABLE AND WHICH BLACKS PRECISELY WILL BE BROUGHT
INTO THE TALKS.

13. SOME BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY CHANCE OF SUCCESS
WOULD BE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, PERHAPS TO BE
HELD IN BRITAIN, AT WHICH THE WHITES AND ALL THE SKIR-
MISHING BLACK NATIONALIST FACTIONS WOULD BE REPRESENTED.

14. OTHERS FEEL THAT THE ONLY CHANCE OF SETTLEMENT
LIES IN HAVING ONE BLACK LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMO, MORE OR
LESS APPOINTED BY THE LEADERS OF THE BLACK AFRICAN
COUNTRIES. MR. NKOMO, WHOSE EARLIER TALKS WITH
MR. SMITH ENDED IN FAILURE, HAS SOVIET SUPPORT AND
WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES. MORE IMPORTANT, HE IS REGARDED BY MR. SMITH AS A MAN OF GREATER
SUBSTANCE THAN THE OTHER NATIONALIST FIGURES. THE
ONLY RESERVATION IS WHETHER HE COMMANDS SIGNIFICANT
BACKING AMONG THE COUNTRY'S SIX MILLION BLACKS.

15. THOSE WHO SEE MR. NKOMO AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE
NEGOTIATOR ARGUE THAT HIS PRESTIGE AND FOLLOWING WOULD
INCREASE AS HIS NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEEDED. THEY ALSO FEEL
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THAT ANOTHER FACTOR IN THE DISCUSSION WOULD BE THE
RECOGNITION THAT MR. NKOMO WOULD NEED BACKING INSIDE
THE COUNTRY, PRESUMABLY FROM THE 6,000 BLACK SOLDIERS
NOW IN THE RHODESIAN FORCES, TO PROTECT HIM FROM
POSSIBLE BREAKAWAY GUERRILLA FACTIONS THAT WOULD CHALLENGE HIS AUTHORITY.

16. AND THROUGH HIS CONTROL OF THOSE BLACK SOLDIERS,
NOW LED BY WHITE OFFICERS, MR. SMITH WOULD HAVE LEVERAGE OVER MR. NKOMO IN BARGAINING FOR ASSURANCES OF
A PEACEFUL TRANSITION AND GUARANTEES OF MINORITY
RIGHTS. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE233785
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760356-0604
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760936/aaaabenu.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <11 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SMITH, IAN D), (KAUFMAN, MICHAEL)
To: SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006